

Docket No.: SAHA-10043
Application No.: 10/658,542
Amendment Date: September 11, 2006
Reply of Office Action of: May 9, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 9, 10, 15, and 17 and amend claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16, and 18 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of[[pouring from a bottle]] using a bottle manipulation device, comprising the steps of:

engaging a bottle engaging member of a bottle manipulation device on a rear and two sides of a neck of a bottle;

moving a hook member connected to the bottle engaging member into an engaged position engaging a front of the neck of the bottle; and

wherein the step of moving further comprises the steps of:

snap locking the hook member relative to the front of the neck of the bottle, and

flexing a portion of the hook member to permit passage of said portion over the bottle neck.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of engaging the bottle engaging member with the bottle further comprises sliding a U-shaped fork of the bottle engaging member onto the neck of the bottle.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of engaging the bottle with the bottle engaging member further comprises sliding a slot of a U-shaped fork of the bottle engaging member over a flange on the neck of the bottle.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of using a bottle manipulation device, comprising the steps of:

engaging a bottle engaging member of a bottle manipulation device on a rear and two sides of a neck of a bottle;

moving a hook member connected to the bottle engaging member into an engaged position engaging a front of the neck of the bottle; and

wherein the step of moving further comprises the steps of:

snap locking the hook member relative to the front of the neck of the bottle; and [[The method of claim 1, wherein the step of moving the hook member further comprises]]

pivoting the hook member about a pivot generally on a bisecting plane of the bottle engaging member.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of moving the hook member further comprises moving a portion of the hook member through a bisecting plane that generally bisects the bottle manipulation device.

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6. (Currently amended)[[A]]The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

grasping a grip portion that depends downwardly at a rear of the bottle engaging member;
and

manipulating the bottle and handle as a unit to control the bottle in a pouring movement.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of[[moving the hook member further comprises]] flexing a portion of the hook member[[to]] permits passage of said portion over a radially extending flange on a bottle neck.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the steps of moving and snap locking comprise the step of flexing, and the step of flexing further comprises forcing the hook member from a relaxed state in a disengaged position through a flexed state when it passes over a radially extending flange to a relaxed state engaging the front of the neck of the bottle in the engaged position.

Claims 9 and 10. (Canceled)

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11. (Currently amended) A bottle manipulation device, comprising:

a bottle engaging member, wherein the bottle engaging member comprises a bottle engaging portion and a standoff portion;

a grip supported on the bottle engaging member in a plane that generally bisects the bottle engaging member, wherein the grip depends downwardly from the standoff portion in a pistol grip configuration;

a hook pivotally connected to the bottle engaging member by a pivotal connection generally in said plane; and

wherein a portion of the hook is movable from a disengaged position out of the plane to an engaged position passing through the plane.

12. (Original) The bottle manipulation device of claim 11, wherein the bottle engaging member comprises a U-shaped fork with a respective branch of the fork on each opposite side of said plane.

13. (Original) The bottle manipulation device of claim 11, wherein the bottle engaging member comprises a U-shaped fork with a groove extending transversely to said plane on an inside of the U-shaped fork.

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14. (Original) The bottle manipulation device of claim 13, wherein:

the groove forms a seat for receiving a rear portion of a circular flange extending
radially outward from a neck of a bottle; and

the portion of the hook forms a blocking member for engaging a front portion of the flange in
the engaged position.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The bottle manipulation device of claim[[15]]1, wherein the pivotal
connection is disposed in the standoff portion generally between the grip and the bottle engaging
portion.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A bottle manipulation device, comprising:

a bottle engaging member;

a grip supported on the bottle engaging member in a plane that generally bisects the bottle engaging member;

a hook pivotally connected to the bottle engaging member by a pivotal connection generally in said plane; wherein a portion of the hook is movable from a disengaged position out of the plane to an engaged position passing through the plane; [[The bottle manipulation device of claim 11,]]wherein:

said portion of said hook further comprises a blocking portion;

the hook further comprising a thumb engaging portion; and

wherein the thumb engaging portion is positioned generally between the blocking portion and the pivotal connection so that the thumb engaging portion is conveniently accessible by a user's thumb when the user's fingers are wrapped around the grip.

19. (Original) The bottle manipulation device of claim 18, wherein the thumb engaging portion has a thumb engaging surface disposed at an angle in a range from approximately twenty degrees to approximately seventy degrees relative to said plane in said disengaged position; and

the thumb engaging surface is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately zero degrees to approximately fifteen degrees relative to said plane in said engaged position.